East Fork Nehalem Project

Decision Record

Environmental Assessment Number OR086-07-05

December 2008

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office
Salem District
Tillamook Resource Area

Township 5 North, Range 3 West, Sections 31-33,
Township 4 North, Range 3 West, Sections 5-9, 16, 17, 19 and 21,
(Willamette Meridian)
East Fork Nehalem 6th field Watershed
Columbia County, Oregon

Responsible Agency: USDI - Bureau of Land Management

Responsible Official:
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BLM
Tillamook Resource Area, Oregon

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering economic use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

BLM/OR/WA/AE-08/021+1792

I. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conducted an environmental analysis documented in *The East Fork Nehalem Project Environmental Assessment* (EA # OR086-07-05) and the associated project file. The project proposes to implement a multi-year fish and wildlife habitat enhancement project within the East Fork Nehalem watershed (Figure 1). Project work is expected to begin in the summer of 2009, and be completed within 10-15 years as time and funding allow. The project includes fish habitat enhancement on a total of approximately 7.8 miles of stream, wildlife habitat enhancement on approximately 216 acres, riparian planting on approximately 10 acres, and fish passage work at two culverts (Figure 2). The trees for the instream portion of the project will come from well-stocked riparian areas along selected stream reaches and identified roads within the project area (Figure 3). All project actions on BLM land will occur in the Riparian Reserve land use allocation (LUA). Project actions will also occur on private and private industrial land in cooperation with the landowners. Sections with proposed actions are Township 5 North, Range 3 West sections 31, 32, and 33, and Township 4 North, Range 3 West sections 5-9, 16, 17, 19 and 21 (Willamette Meridian).

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was drafted and attached to the EA and made available for public review from August 6th to September 5th 2008, and signed on November 3rd 2008.

The decision documented in this Decision Record (DR) is based on the analysis documented in the EA and FONSI.

II. DECISION

East Fork Nehalem Project – Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement, Fish Passage, and Riparian Planting

I have decided to implement all elements of the East Fork Nehalem Project as described in Alternative 2, the "action" alternative, (EA pp. 15-18). This decision is based on site-specific analysis in the East Fork Nehalem Project Environmental Assessment (EA # OR086-07-05), the supporting project record, management recommendations contained in the East Fork Nehalem Watershed Analysis, as well as the management direction contained in the *Salem District Record of Decision/Resource Management Plan* (ROD\RMP) (May 1995), which are incorporated by reference in the EA. Hereafter, "Alternative 2" is referred to as the "selected alternative". The maps of the selected alternative can be found in Figures 1-3, on pages 4 thru 7 of this DR.

Modifications:
None

Figure 1. East Fork Nehalem Project Location Map

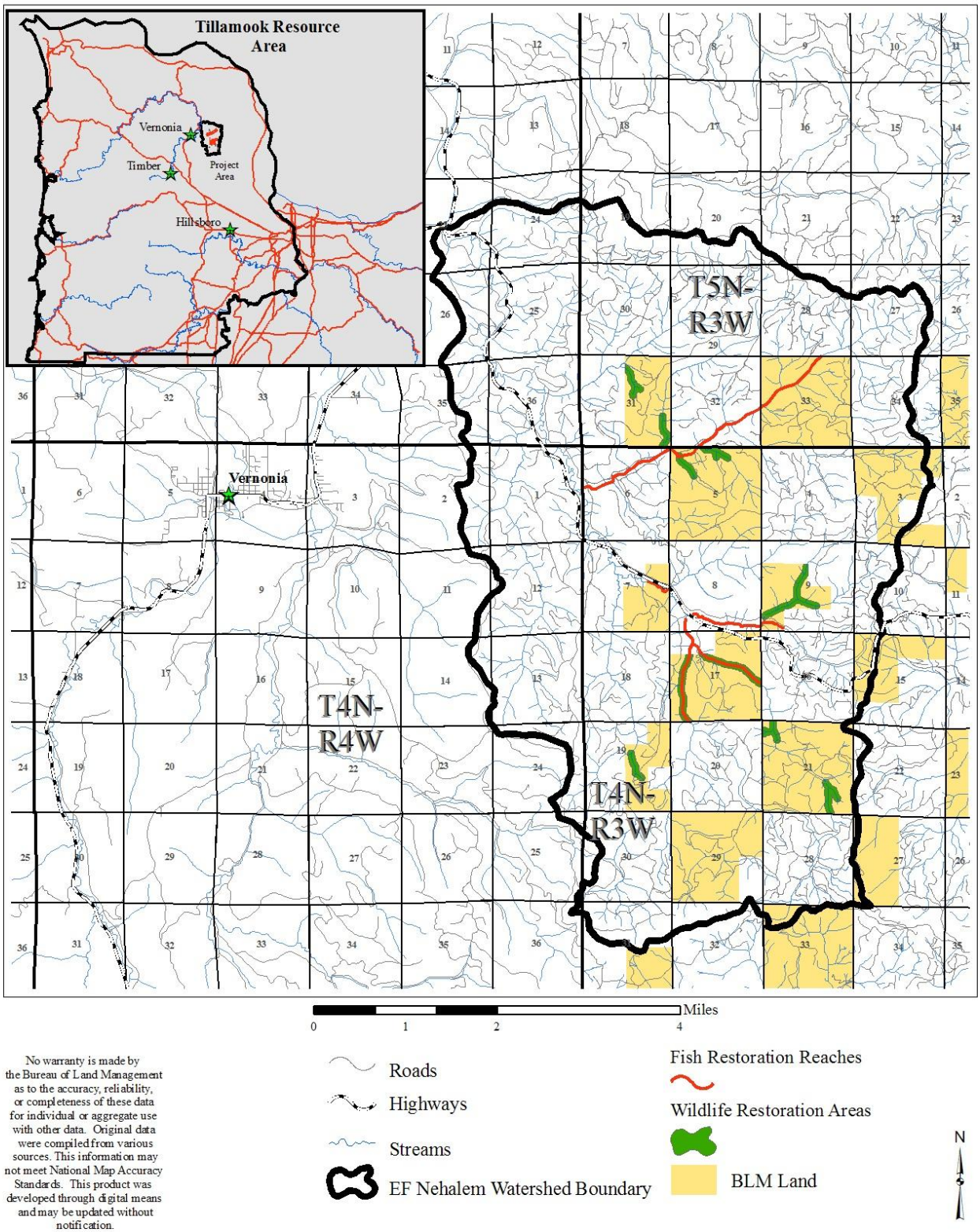


Figure 2. Fish Restoration/Passage and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Areas

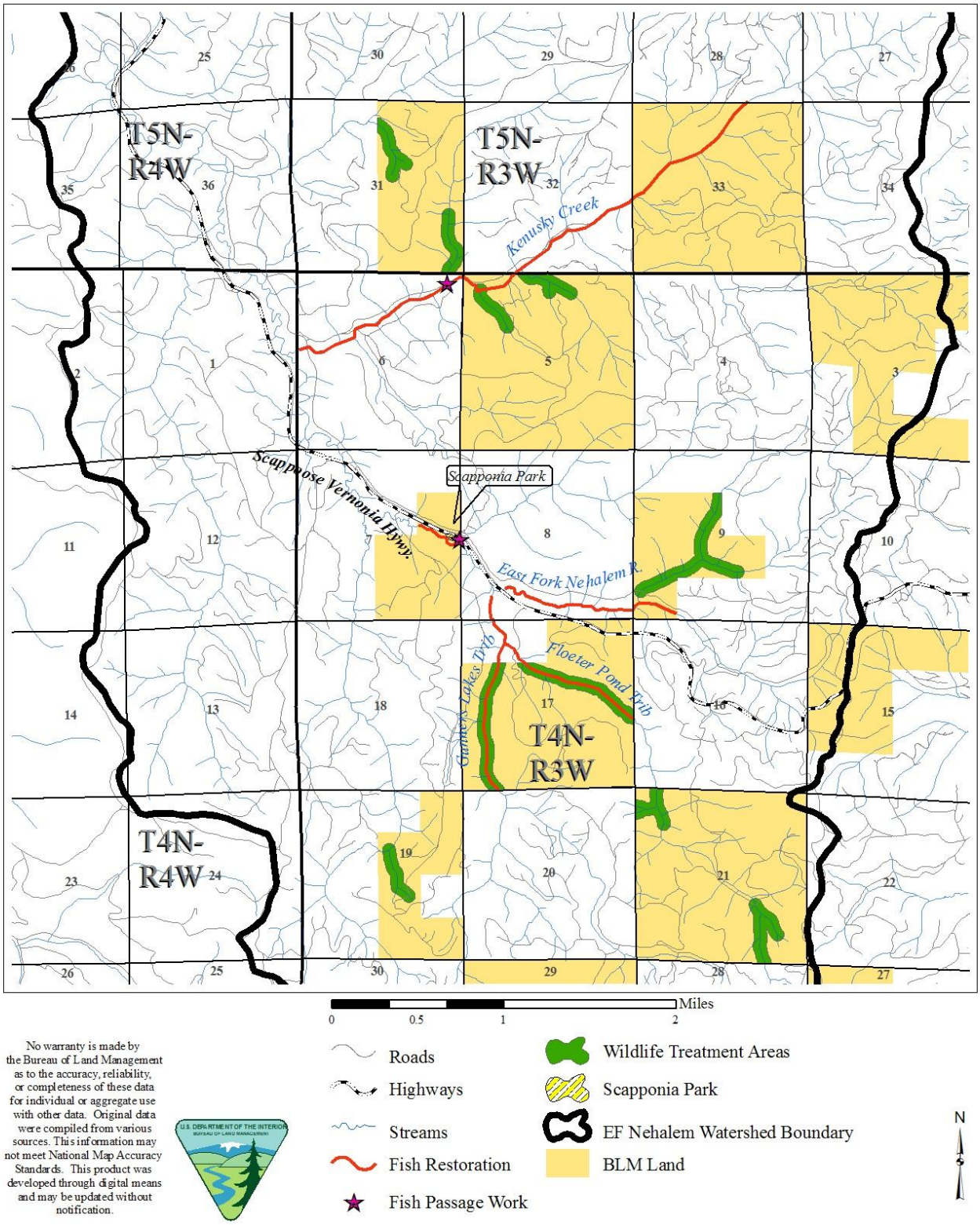
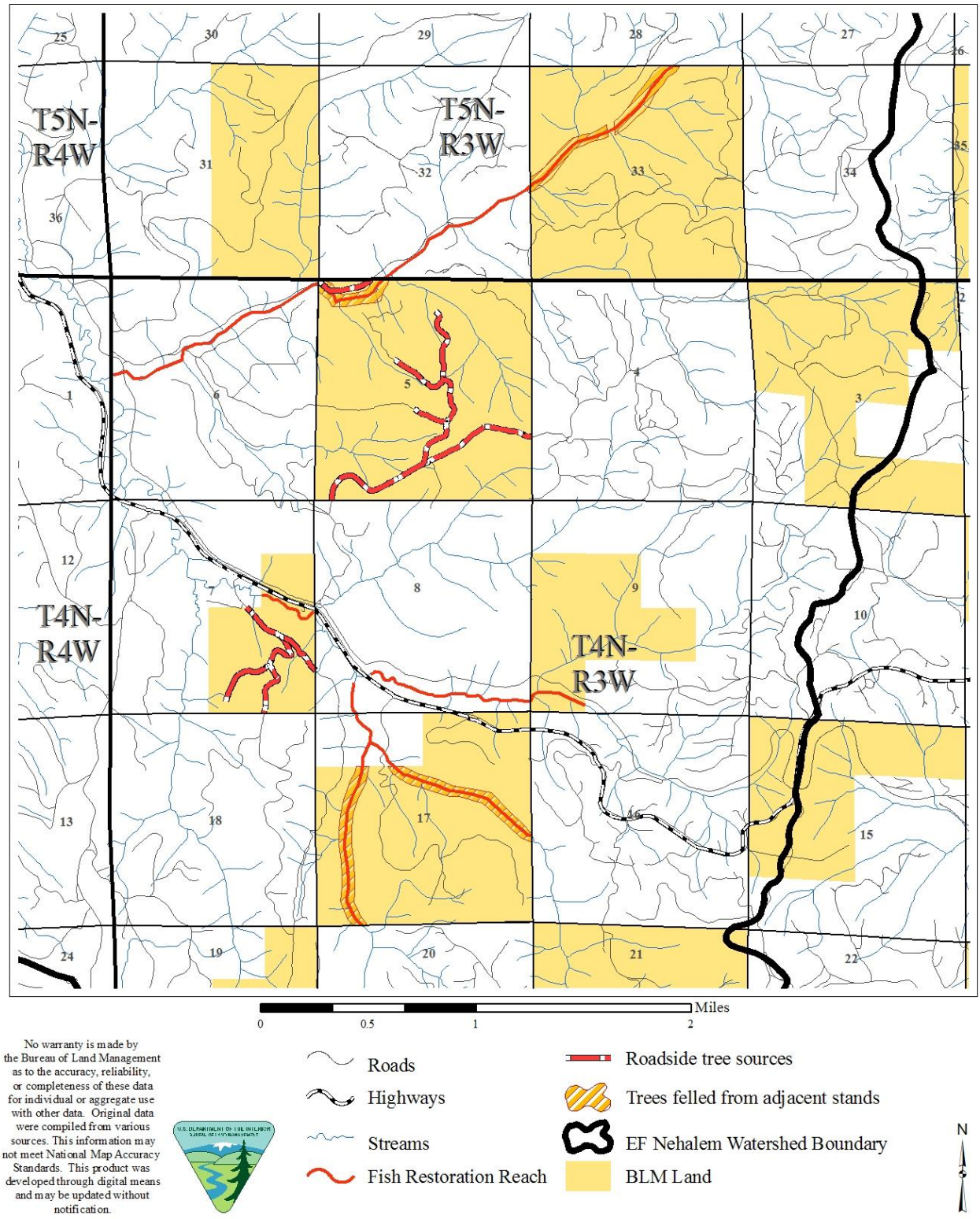


Figure 3. East Fork Nehalem Roadside and Streamside Tree Sources



Decision Summary:

In-Stream Log Placement: The proposed in-stream habitat restoration activities will involve the placement of large woody debris (LWD) into the proposed stream reaches. The trees for the in-stream project will come from the riparian reserve land use allocation located along the identified stream reaches and roads (Figure 3). LWD placed in streams will include up to 150 trees on 4.3 miles of stream on BLM land, and an additional 50 trees over 3.5 miles of stream on private land utilizing heavy equipment (walking or tracked excavator). Tree diameter at breast height (DBH) will be up to 32 inches and log lengths of up to 60 feet. Habitat surveys show these reaches do not meet either the Oregon Department of Fish or Wildlife (ODFW) 48 key pieces per mile (at least 24 inches diameter and at least 50 feet long) or the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 80 key pieces per mile benchmarks considered to make up a properly functioning stream ecosystem in Western Oregon. The in-stream habitat restoration activities will result in more variations in stream velocities, which will create greater habitat complexity and diversity for fish and other aquatic life.

Wildlife Habitat enhancement: Treatments that will benefit a variety of wildlife species will occur on approximately 216 acres of riparian forest. Although trees up to 36 inches DBH may be treated, it is expected that this project will primarily treat trees up to approximately 30 inches DBH. In general, the project will treat up to an average of five trees per acre scattered throughout the proposed treatment areas. The project may include felling of green trees, girdling green trees at the base as well as within the live crown, topping green trees and/or potentially inoculating trees with a heart rot fungus to enhance wildlife habitat. Other potential design features include using coarse woody debris (CWD) creation in such a way as to mimic bark beetle pockets and maximize the potential benefits through also releasing individual understory and/or overstory trees. Some of these treated trees will be located in small clumps of up to about five trees or be used to surround individual selected overstory trees with a ring of created snags.

Fish Passage: Proposed fish passage improvement includes work at two culverts (Figure 2). The culvert on Weyerhaeuser land in the northeast corner of section 6 will either be replaced with a new culvert designed to facilitate fish passage, or will be removed completely. This culvert is on an unnamed tributary to Kenusky Creek. If this culvert was removed the stream channel at the crossing will be pulled back to a natural slope and then be subject to the natural channel forming processes of this tributary. This culvert currently blocks fish passage and is undersized for the existing perennial stream channel.

The other proposed fish passage culvert is located on the Scappoose-Vernonia Highway in section 8, near Scapponia Park on an unnamed tributary to the East Fork Nehalem River. The proposed action at this culvert location will not include removal or replacement. Work at this culvert will include placing a series of three to five small boulder weirs below the culvert outlet downstream to the confluence with the East Fork Nehalem River about sixty feet below. These boulder weirs will be designed to aggrade the channel throughout this 60-foot reach to create a low gradient backwater at the outlet instead of the current 10-inch drop. A walking or tracked excavator will be used to place these boulders in the stream channel.

Riparian Planting: The BLM will plant up to ten acres; approximately seven acres on BLM land and approximately three acres located on Weyerhaeuser and other private land. The riparian

planting will be adjacent to (within 200 feet of) the proposed fish restoration reaches in areas that are lacking streamside riparian area trees or have declining red alder (Figure 2).

Road Work: No new permanent or temporary roads are included in this project. The only roadwork may include removing the fish culvert identified in the EA (pg.16), along with all live stream crossings past this culvert effectively blocking access to approximately .25 miles of the existing Kenusky creek road on BLM land.

The selected alternative includes all the design features described in the EA (pp. 21-24).

III. COMPLIANCE WITH DIRECTION

The analysis documented in the East Fork Nehalem EA is site-specific and supplements analysis found in the *Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement*, September 1994 (PRMP/FEIS). This project has been designed to conform to the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan***,** May 1995 (ROD/RMP) and related documents, which direct and provide the legal framework for management of BLM lands within the Salem District (EA pg. 10) and direction from the East Fork Nehalem Watershed Analysis (1996). All of these documents may be reviewed at the Tillamook Resource Area office.

Survey and Manage Species Review:

This project fully complies with The *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (July 2007).

Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Status Review:

The following information was considered in the analysis of the proposed project: a/ *Scientific Evaluation of the Status of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Sustainable Ecosystems Institute, Courtney et al. 2004); b/S*tatus and Trends in Demography of Northern Spotted Owls, 1985-2003* (Anthony et al. 2004); c/ *Northern Spotted Owl Five Year Review: Summary and Evaluation* (USFWS, November 2004); and d/N*orthwest Forest Plan – The First Ten Years (1994-2003): Status and trend of northern spotted owl populations and habitat, PNW Station Edit Draft* (Lint, Technical Coordinator, 2005). In summary, although the agencies anticipated a decline of NSO populations under land and resource management plans during the past decade, the reports identified greater than expected NSO population declines in Washington and northern portions of Oregon, and more stationary populations in southern Oregon and northern California.

The reports did not find a direct correlation between habitat conditions and changes in NSO populations, and they were inconclusive as to the cause of the declines. Lag effects from prior harvest of suitable habitat, competition with Barred Owls, and habitat loss due to wildfire were identified as current threats; West Nile Virus and Sudden Oak Death were identified as potential new threats. Complex interactions are likely among the various factors. This information has not been found to be in conflict with the NWFP or the RMP (*Evaluation of the Salem District Resource Management Plan Relative to Four Northern Spotted Owl Reports, September 6, 2005*).

IV. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered but Not Analyzed in Detail:

Fish Habitat Restoration
The IDT considered several other items during the planning process of this project. Initially the use of a helicopter to place LWD into additional stream reaches was considered. Several factors contributed to this alternative not being further analyzed. The areas identified for helicopter treatment were relatively small in the overall scope of the project and all of them were on private land. There were no suitable landings in the project vicinity to facilitate a safe refueling station, staging area for logs or to serve as a service landing for the helicopter. The bank full widths of the identified reaches were considered too small to justify using a helicopter for placement, as well as having limited potential for anadromous fish use.

Fish Passage
An alternative that included a fish passage element on a culvert located in T4N–R3W section 9 on an unnamed tributary to the mainstem East Fork Nehalem was considered but not carried forward. The IDT discussed the possibility of replacing or retrofitting this culvert, but decided that it was outside the scope of the proposed action and to remove this culvert from the project due to decision factors including; its location on a segment of the CZ Mainline (being converted to a hiking, biking trail); extensive amount of analysis required including engineering, waste storage, water quality implications; and finally cost for replacement. A fish ladder type of structure was also discussed at this location. This option was also discarded after concerns voiced by RA fish biologists regarding existing culvert length and grade, and performing a fish passage analysis using Fish Xing (V3) which shows that even if fish could negotiate the retrofitted ladder structure and gain access to the culvert, the 5% slope and 150 foot length of the culvert will not pass even the most fit fish.

Alternatives Considered in Detail:

The East Fork Nehalem Project EA analyzed the effects of the proposed action and the no action alternatives. Complete descriptions of the "proposed action" and "no action" alternatives are contained in the EA (pp.15-18).

V. DECISION RATIONALE

Project – Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement, Fish Passage, and Riparian Planting

Considering the lack of public comments, the content and analysis within the EA and supporting project record, the management recommendations contained in the East Fork Nehalem Watershed Analysis (1996), and the management direction contained in the ROD/RMP, I have decided to implement the selected alternative as described above. The following is my rationale for this decision.

1. The selected alternative:
- Meets the purpose and need of the project (EA section 2.1).Complies with the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan***,** May 1995 (ROD/RMP)

and related documents which direct and provide the legal framework for management of BLM lands within the Salem District (EA pg. 10).

- Is fully compliant with The *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (July 2007).
- Considers new information on northern spotted owl (DR pg. 8).
- Will not have significant impacts on the affected elements of the environment (EA pp.62-65) beyond those already anticipated and addressed in the PRMP/FEIS, and or programmatic coverages defined in the EA.
- Has been adequately analyzed.

2. The "No Action" alternative was not selected because it does not meet the Purpose and Need directly (EA section 2.1).

VI. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT/CONSULTATION/COORDINATION

Scoping:

A letter asking for scoping input on the proposal was mailed on April 4, 2007 to 22 individuals, groups and agencies that were potentially affected and/or interested in management activities in the resource area as a whole or in this area. A description of the proposal was also included in the Salem Bureau of Land Management Project Update in June of 2007, which was mailed to more than 1000 individuals and organizations. No relevant letters or oral responses were received as a result of this scoping.

Comment Period and Comments:

Based on receiving no comments during the public scoping, the EA and FONSI were mailed to 9 agencies, individuals and organizations on August 7, 2008. A legal notice was printed in the *South County Spotlight* newspaper soliciting public input on the action on August 6, 2008. No comments were received during the 30 day comment period for the EA and FONSI.

Consultation/Coordination:

Fish Habitat Enhancement / Fish Passage / Riparian Planting

Fisheries consultation:

The proposed actions will be implemented consistent with the Aquatic Restoration Biological Opinion (ARBO) for restoration activities signed by NOAA Fisheries (tracking # P/NWR/2006/06532) and USFWS (Tails # 13420-2007-F-0055) (June 2007), which is valid through 2012; actions occurring after this date will be implemented under new programmatic coverage or project specific consultation. Project work will be included in the appropriate period, level 1 programmatic project notification. Because implementation of the project is dependent upon funding and it will likely take several fiscal years to fully implement, it will be included in more than one appropriate programmatic consultation if necessary.

Wildlife Consultation:

Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as provided in Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16U.S.C. 1536 (a)(2) and (a)(4) as amended) for those portions of the East Fork Nehalem Project addressing fish habitat restoration will be accomplished by an analysis contained within the appropriate Programmatic Biological Assessment. This will be the *Biological Assessment for USDA Forest Service (Pacific Northwest Region), USDI Bureau of Land Management (Oregon State Office) and the Coquille Indian Tribe Fish Habitat Restoration Activities Affecting ESA and MSA-listed Animal and Plant Species found in Oregon and Washington* prepared by USDA Forest Service (Pacific Northwest Region), Bureau of Land Management (Oregon State Office) and the Coquille Indian Tribe. All of the appropriate Terms and Conditions of the appropriate biological opinion(s) will be incorporated.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

Fisheries Consultation:

The proposed actions will be implemented consistent with the Aquatic Restoration Biological Opinion (ARBO) for restoration activities signed by NOAA Fisheries (tracking # P/NWR/2006/06532) and USFWS (Tails # 13420-2007-F-0055) (June 2007), which is valid through 2012; actions occurring after this date will be implemented under new programmatic coverage or project specific consultation. Project work will be included in the appropriate period, level 1 programmatic project notification. Because implementation of the project is dependent upon funding and it will likely take several fiscal years to fully implement, it will be included in more than one appropriate programmatic consultation if necessary.

Wildlife Consultation:

Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as provided in Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16U.S.C. 1536 (a)(2) and (a)(4) as amended) will be accomplished by inclusion of the East Fork Nehalem Project into the appropriate Programmatic Biological Assessment for Habitat Modification Projects prepared by the terrestrial sub-group of the North Coast Province Interagency Level 1 Team. Because implementation of the project is dependant upon funding and it will likely take several fiscal years to fully implement, it will be included in more than one appropriate programmatic consultation if necessary. All of the appropriate Terms and Conditions of the appropriate biological opinion(s) will be incorporated.

VII. Review of Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives:

I have reviewed this analysis and have determined that the project meets the Aquatic Conservation Strategy in the context of PCFFA IV and PCFFA II [complies with the ACS on the project (site) scale]. The following is an update of how this project complies with the four components of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy.

Component 1 – Riparian Reserves: The proposed action is consistent due to; no new road or landing construction within Riparian Reserves, trees will be felled directly into streams or removed from roadside riparian reserves to place into streams for fish the purpose of fish habitat

enhancement, as well as to accelerate the growth of large conifers in riparian reserves for future LWD recruitment.

Component 2 – Key Watershed: The project area is not within a Key Watershed.

Component 3 – Watershed Analysis: The East Fork Nehalem Watershed Analysis was completed in December 1996. Recommendations from the watershed analysis have been incorporated into this EA.

Component 4 – Watershed Restoration: The proposed actions are consistent with the following components of watershed restoration:

Control and prevention of road-related runoff and sediment – If the culvert is removed from Kenusky creek road the road mileage in the watershed will be reduced by .25 miles, if it is replaced there will be no gain or loss in road mileage from this project.

Restoration of the condition of Riparian vegetation – The trees selected from the riparian reserves for the fish habitat enhancement portion as well as the wildlife enhancement portion of the project will be chosen to promote the development of late-successional forest characteristics on an accelerated timeframe. Riparian planting will also contribute to future LWD recruitment, as well as variability in canopy age class and species diversity in the affected riparian areas.

Restoration of instream habitat complexity – The project includes 7.8 miles of fish habitat enhancement, which will increase LWD volume, pool area and quality, create spawning and rearing habitat, as well as improve substrate and nutrient storage and routing processes. This project will create quality, complex stream habitat for endangered Oregon Coast coho salmon, as well as chinook salmon, steelhead, pacific lamprey, and resident cutthroat trout.

In addition, I have reviewed this project against the ACS objectives at the project or site scale with the following results: The no action alternative does not retard or prevent the attainment of any of the nine ACS objectives because this alternative will maintain current conditions. The proposed action does not retard or prevent the attainment of any of the nine ACS objectives (Table 1).

Table 1: Project's Consistency with the Nine Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objective	***Remarks (Alternative 1 addresses all projects)***
1. Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features. *None of the Alternatives retard or prevent the attainment of ACS objective 1*	**Alternative 1:** The No Action alternative will maintain the development of the existing vegetation and associated stand structure at its present rate. The current distribution, diversity and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features will be maintained. **Fish Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** Current levels of LWD are severely depleted compared to historic conditions. The addition of LWD into the identified reaches of the East

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objective	*Remarks (Alternative 1 addresses all projects)*
	Fork Nehalem River will help restore the diversity and complexity of watershed features to which native aquatic and riparian species are uniquely adapted. **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** Creation of CWD in the project area will enhance, to a small degree, the diversity and complexity of forest stands in the affected watershed. At the landscape scale, diversity and complexity will be maintained. **Riparian Planting Alternative 2:** Planting of native vegetation will enhance, to a small degree, the diversity and complexity of forest stands in the affected watershed. At the landscape scale, diversity and complexity will be maintained. **Fish Passage Alternative 2:** Any fish passage improvements will enhance, to a small degree, the diversity and distribution in the affected watershed. At the landscape scale, diversity and distribution will be maintained.
2. Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. *None of the Alternatives retard or prevent the attainment of ACS objective 2*	**Alternative 1:** The No Action alternative will have little effect on connectivity except in the long-term within the affected watersheds. **Fish Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** Placement of logs will connect stream channels to larger floodplain areas. **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** Creation of CWD will improve connectivity within and between watersheds by enhancing habitat for late successional dependant species in the treatment areas. **Riparian Planting Alternative 2:** Riparian planting will have no affect on spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. **Fish Passage Alternative 2:** Fish passage improvement actively restores connectivity within this watershed.
3. Maintain and restore the physical integrity of the aquatic system, including shorelines,	**Alternatives 1:** The current condition of physical integrity will not be affected and will continue to be dependent on natural processes.

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objective	*Remarks (Alternative 1 addresses all projects)*
banks, and bottom configurations. *None of the Alternatives retard or prevent the attainment of ACS objective 3*	**Fish Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** LWD placements along proposed reaches within the East Fork Nehalem Watershed will reduce stream flow velocities and increase streambed roughness. Over time, log structures will trap additional wood and sediment moving downstream and increase channel stability and physical integrity of the aquatic system. Short-term impacts to banks and bottom configurations are anticipated; however, this action returns the affected sites to a more natural condition. ** Structures placed in Scapponia Park will be designed to minimize channel instability and movement. **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** This project will have a beneficial affect on the physical integrity of the aquatic system at the site scale; at the watershed or larger scale the current condition will be maintained. **Riparian Planting Alternative 2:** This project will have a beneficial affect on the physical integrity of the aquatic system at the site scale providing bank stability and a future source of large wood. At the watershed or larger scale the current condition will be maintained. **Fish Passage Alternative 2:** Short-term impacts to banks and bottom configurations are anticipated; however this action returns the affected sites to a more natural condition.
4. Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems. *None of the Alternatives retard or prevent the attainment of ACS objective 4*	**Alternative 1:** The current low levels of large wood in project streams and lack stream channel complexity as result of past logging actions will continue to decline until streamside trees grow and drop into channels and begin to reverse these conditions (approximately 40 plus years). **Fish Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** Placement of LWD into sites in the East Fork Nehalem River will improve water quality by providing some additional shade, restoring sediment transport and storage, and increasing the quantity and complexity of pool habitat. Short duration affects to water quality are anticipated; however the current condition of riparian, aquatic and wetland ecosystems will be maintained. **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** This project will have no affect on water quality; therefore the current condition will be maintained. **Riparian Planting Alternative 2:**

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objective	*Remarks (Alternative 1 addresses all projects)*
	This project will have no affect on water quality; therefore, the current condition will be maintained. **Fish Passage Alternative 2:** Short duration affects to water quality are anticipated however, these will maintain riparian, aquatic and wetland ecosystems. At the watershed scale no impacts to water quality will occur.
5. Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved. *None of the Alternatives retard or prevent the attainment of ACS objective 5*	**Alternative 1:** It is assumed that the current levels of sediment into streams will be maintained. **Fish Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** This project will result in short-term increases in sediment during log placement in specific sites in the East Fork Nehalem Watershed. In the long-term, log structures will trap gravel and other substrate and the road will stabilize; therefore, the sediment regime will be restored. **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** This project will have no affect on the sediment regime; therefore, the current condition will be maintained. **Riparian Planting Alternative 2:** This project will have no affect on the sediment regime; therefore, the current condition will be maintained. **Fish Passage Alternative 2:** This project will result in short-term increases in sediment during culvert replacement in specific sites in the East Fork Nehalem Watershed. In the long-term, culvert replacements will restore a more natural sediment regime at the site scale.

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objective	*Remarks (Alternative 1 addresses all projects)*
6. Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing. *Both the Action and No Action None of the Alternatives retard or prevent the attainment of ACS objective 6*	**No Action Alternatives:** No changes in in-streams flows are anticipated. **Fish Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** This project will have no affect on in-stream flows. It will improve sediment, nutrient, and wood routing. Therefore the current condition will be maintained. **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** The project will have no affect on in-stream flows. **Riparian Planting Alternative 2:** This project will have no affect on in-stream flows and will restore future sources of nutrients, and wood routing. **Fish Passage Alternative 2:** This project will have no affect on in-stream flows and will restore patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing.
7. Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands. *None of the Alternatives retard or prevent the attainment of ACS objective 7*	**Alternative 1:** The current condition of flood plains and their ability to sustain inundation and the water table elevations in meadows and wetlands will not be altered and are expected to be maintained. **Fish Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** The addition of LWD in sites within the East Fork Nehalem River Watershed will likely increase the frequency, and potentially the duration of floodplain inundation, as well as promote floodplain development. **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** This project will have very little affect on floodplains or water table elevation; therefore, the current condition will be maintained. **Riparian Planting Alternative 2:** This project will have very little affect on floodplains or water table elevation; therefore, the current condition will be maintained. **Fish Passage Alternative 2:** This project will have very little affect on floodplains or water table elevation; therefore, the current condition will be maintained.

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objective	*Remarks (Alternative 1 addresses all projects)*
8. Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands. *None of the Alternatives retard or prevent the attainment of ACS objective 8*	**Alternative 1:** The current species composition and structural diversity of plant communities will continue along the current trajectory. Diversification will occur over a longer period. **Fish Habitat Restoration Alternative 2:** The species composition and structural diversity will be maintained by the instream restoration. **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** This project will have very little affect on the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities. **Riparian Planting Alternative 2:** The species composition and structural diversity will be improved with the planting of shade tolerant native tree species and releasing conifers in riparian areas. **Fish Passage Alternative 2:** This project will have very little affect on the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities.
9. Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate and vertebrate riparian-dependent species. *None of the Alternatives retard or prevent the attainment of ACS objective 9*	**Alternatives 1:** Habitats will be maintained over the short-term and continue to develop over the long-term with no known impacts on species currently present. **Fish Habitat Restoration Alternative 2:** The addition of LWD structures will provide more habitat for populations of native invertebrate and vertebrate riparian-dependent species. **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Alternative 2:** Creation of CWD will provide improved habitats for populations of native invertebrate and vertebrate riparian-dependant species. **Riparian Planting Alternative 2:** Planting of Native species will restore sites on which invertebrate and vertebrate, riparian species depend. **Fish Passage Alternative 2:** Replacement of fish passage culverts directly restores and supports the distribution of invertebrate and vertebrate riparian (aquatic) species.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Review of Finding of No Significant Impact

I have determined that change to the Finding of No Significant Impact (EA #OR086-07-05 and FONSI – November 2008) covering the East Fork Nehalem Project is not necessary because I have considered and concur with information in the EA and FONSI and this Decision Record. No new information has surfaced that leads me to believe the analysis, data or conclusions are in error or that the selected action needs to be altered. The selected action will not have effects beyond those already anticipated and addressed in the RMP/FEIS.

Supplemental or additional information to the analysis in the RMP/FEIS in the form of a new environmental impact statement is not necessary for the reasons described in the Finding of No Significant Impact (EA and FONSI, pages 4-6).

Administrative Review Opportunities

The decision described in this document is a forest management decision and is subject to protest by the public. In accordance with Forest Management Regulations at 43 CFR 5003, protests to this decision may be made within **30** days of the publication of a notice of decision in a newspaper of general circulation. Notice of this decision will be published in the *South County Spotlight* on ***Wednesday December 17, 2008.*** To protest this decision a person or group must submit a written protest to William B. Keller, Tillamook Field Manager, 4610 Third Street, Tillamook, Oregon 97141 by the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on ***Friday January 16, 2009.*** The protest must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error.

- Any objection to the project elements design or my decision to go forward with all the proposed elements of the selected alternative must be filed at this time in accordance with the protest process outlined above.

Approved by: _____ Dec. 10, 2008

William B. Keller
Tillamook Field Manager

Date